Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

The Status of the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for performing background caching of encrypted programming for later playback, comprising:

a memory operatively connected to a bus for storing received, encrypted digital data packets of at least one pay-per-view (PPV) event;

a processor for decrypting the data packets when they are transferred by ~~said~~ the memory via ~~said~~ the bus; and

a decoder for decoding ~~said~~ the decrypted data packets for display on a display device,

wherein the apparatus is adapted to select at least one PPV event for recording without instruction from a user, and wherein the apparatus searches and caches data packets of ~~said~~ the selected at least one PPV event ~~without user intervention~~ when in a power-down mode, and plays back a recorded PPV event in a power-up mode upon selection by ~~a~~ the user.

2. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a recording device for digitally recording ~~said~~ the encrypted digital data packets, and for transmitting ~~said~~ the digitally recorded data packets to ~~said~~ the memory.

3. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the recording device includes at least one mass storage device.

4. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 3, wherein ~~said~~ the mass storage device is at least one of a hard disc drive, magnetic storage device or optical storage medium.

5. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein ~~said~~ the processor is a transport processor operatively connected to ~~said~~ the bus and to an input port for receiving ~~said~~ the encrypted digital data packets from ~~said~~ the input port.

6. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 5, further comprising:

a host processor operatively connected to ~~said~~ the bus and ~~said~~ the memory for performing graphics-user interface and browser functions; and

an interface for receiving ~~said~~ the encrypted digital data packets from ~~said~~ the transport processor, and for transferring ~~said~~ the received encrypted digital data packets simultaneously to ~~said~~ the memory via ~~said~~ the bus, and to ~~said~~ the decoder,

~~said~~ the memory further including a buffer space for temporarily storing the encrypted digital data packets received from ~~said~~ the interface,

~~said~~ the host processor directing ~~said~~ the memory to transfer ~~said~~ the encrypted digital data packets to be digitally recorded by ~~said~~ the recording device, and

~~said~~ the interface adapted to receive ~~said~~ the digitally recorded data packets from ~~said~~ the recording device via ~~said~~ the memory and ~~said~~ the bus.

7. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 6, ~~said~~ the interface being further adapted to transfer ~~said~~ the digitally recorded data packets to ~~said~~ the decoder.

8. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 6, wherein ~~said~~ the host processor searches a program guide to find upcoming PPV events, and, when ~~said~~ the PPV event begins, the apparatus tunes to an appropriate transponder to begin receiving the encrypted digital data packets.

9. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the digital data packets include packetized audiovisual data, system time data and conditional access data.

10. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the transport processor provides an additional layer of conditional access for the encrypted digital data packets.

11. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the data packets are time-stamped upon reception.

12. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 5,

wherein the data packets are time-stamped upon reception, and

wherein the decoder and transport processor utilize the recorded time stamps to recreate the original transmission timing of the encrypted digital data packets, only when the user selects a recorded PPV event for playback.

13. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 1,

wherein the memory stores encrypted digital data of a plurality of PPV events in repetition while the apparatus is in the power-down mode, and

wherein the user only pays for those recorded PPV events that are selected for playback in the power-up mode.

14. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein ~~said~~ the recording device is an external storage medium.

15. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the transport processor decrypts ~~said~~ the encrypted digital data packets of the user-selected PPV event, and sends the decrypted data packets to ~~said~~ the decoder via ~~said~~ the interface.

16. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 15, wherein ~~said~~ the decoder includes an MPEG A/V decoder for decoding the video portion of ~~said~~ the decrypted digital data packets, and an AC-3/MPEG audio decoder for decoding the audio portion of ~~said~~ the decrypted digital data packets.

17. (Original) The apparatus of claim 16, further comprising a video encoder that converts the received video portion of the decrypted digital data packets to analog for display.

18. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the apparatus is configured as a set-top box (STB) equipped with a digital video recorder.

19. (Currently amended) A method for background caching encrypted programming for later playback in a digital video recording (DVR) system, comprising:

storing received, encrypted digital data packets of at least one pay-per-view (PPV) event in a memory;

time-stamping the received data packets upon reception;

decrypting the data packets when they are transferred by ~~said~~ the memory via a bus; and

decoding ~~said~~the decrypted data packets for display on a display device,

wherein ~~said~~ the at least one PPV event ~~is searched~~ is selected for recording without user instruction, and its corresponding data packets are cached ~~without user intervention~~, when the DVR system is in a power-down mode, and

wherein a selected PPV event is played back when the DVR system is in a power-up mode, upon selection by ~~a~~ the user.

20. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 19, wherein ~~said~~ the step of storing is repeated for a plurality of PPV events when the DVR system is in ~~said~~ the power-down mode.

21. (Original) The method according to claim 20, wherein the user only pays for those cached PPV events that are selected for playback in the power-up mode.

22. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 19, wherein ~~said~~ the searching includes searching a program guide to find upcoming PPV events, and, when ~~said~~ the PPV event begins, the DVR system tunes to an appropriate transponder to begin receiving the encrypted digital data packets.

23. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 22, wherein ~~said~~ the searching is performed by a host processor in the DVR system.

24. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 19, further comprising decrypting ~~said~~ the encrypted digital data packets of the user-selected PPV event, wherein ~~said~~ the decryption is performed in a transport processor operatively connected to ~~said~~ the memory via ~~said~~ the bus.

25. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 19, wherein ~~said~~ the step of decoding includes utilizing ~~said~~ the recorded time stamps to recreate the original transmission timing of the encrypted digital data packets, only when the user selects a recorded PPV event for playback.

26. (Currently amended) A set-top box (STB) for performing background caching of encrypted programming for later playback, comprising:

searching means for searching a program guide to find upcoming pay-per-view (PPV) events received as encrypted data packets;

storing means for caching the received encrypted data packets for later playback; and

retrieval means for retrieving ~~said~~the data packets for display,

wherein the searching means searches the at least one PPV event without user instruction and ~~said~~ the storing means caches data packets of ~~said~~ the at least one PPV event ~~without user intervention~~ when the STB is in a power-down mode, and plays back a recorded PPV event when the STB is in a power-up mode.

27. (Currently Amended) The STB of claim 26, wherein ~~said~~ the searching means and ~~said~~ the storing means repeat searching and recording for a plurality of PPV events, ~~said~~ the recorded plurality of PPV events being stored on an external storage medium for later playback.

28. (Currently Amended) The STB of claim 26,

wherein ~~said~~ the encrypted digital data packets are time-stamped upon reception, and

wherein ~~said~~ the retrieval means decrypts ~~said~~ the encrypted digital data packets, uses the recorded time stamps to recreate the original transmission timing data of the data packets, and decodes the decrypted digital data packets for display on a display device.

29. (Original) The STB of claim 26, wherein a user only pays for those cached PPV events that are selected for playback in the power-up mode.